



The 14th APAC CONFERENCE



A•P•A•C

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

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Strengthening oversight processes to achieve clean administration by 2014 and beyond



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ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

Vision

To be an association recognised for the promotion of credible public financial management, accountability and good governance of the public sector through effective, collaborative legislative oversight.

Mission

To develop and share effective and efficient PAC practices without fear or favour.



Message from the Speaker



Hon. F.D Xasa

Speaker - Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature

Dear APAC Delegates

It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome the delegates, accompanying officials and presenters to the 14th Annual Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) Conference taking place at the International Convention Centre in Port Elizabeth from the 29th September to 3rd October 2013.

The conference, under the theme; 'Strengthening oversight processes to achieve clean administration by 2014 and beyond', is hosted in

collaboration with the Association of Public Accounts Committees.

As the institution, we expect the 14th annual conference to be a great opportunity to share ideas, to discuss the challenges encountered, and to seek innovative ways to address the needs of public account committees.

I am confident that the delegates of the conference will gain useful insight that will ensure the most effective use of public funds. We look forward to your contribution and participation and hope that

the conference will provide stimulating discussions, networking and cooperation.

On behalf of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, I would like to extend a warm word of welcome to all delegates coming to our province for this conference. I hope that you will find the conference and your stay in this beautiful city both valuable and enjoyable.

F.D XASA

Speaker - Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature

Unswerving commitment to good governance

The Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) reaffirmed its commitment to the Operation 2014 Clean Audit campaign in the drive towards ensuring good governance and enhanced service delivery. In a press briefing held Sunday, 29 September, on the eve of the 14th Annual APAC Conference, APAC's General Secretary, Mr Siphso Makama, said the ideal of a 2014 clean audit status was "realisable and still an achievable target for the public sector in South Africa". He added that the clean audit opinions received by various government departments, municipalities and entities were proof thereof.

In light of the advancing deadline of the 2014 Clean Audit campaign, Mr Makama said a key focus area of the APAC conference would include reflecting on the success achieved by APAC towards achieving the objectives of the campaign. He added that the central theme of the conference was 'Strengthening oversight processes to achieve clean administration by 2014 and beyond'. "The theme is aimed at strengthening and enhancing the dynamic role for PACs in transparency, accountability and oversight," explained Mr Makama.

The theme would be supported by the following five sub-themes which would encourage robust debate on topical issues:

- Sub-theme 1: Building strong leadership and management in the public sector
- Sub-theme 2: Recourse to non-compliance with laws and regulations governing the use of public resources
- Sub-theme 3: Eliminating corruption by

prohibiting public servants who conduct business with the State

- Sub-theme 4: Public participation as a tool for oversight
- Sub-theme 5: Improving local government financial accountability

Mr Makama announced that delegates at the 2013 conference represented the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures of South Africa, various South African municipalities, and countries such as Australia, Namibia, Botswana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Delegates could look forward to thought provoking insightful talks about oversight and accountability issues being delivered by renowned speakers. Mr Makama stated that the conference would be opened by the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Memela, who would provide a strategic view on the work of oversight structures in assisting Executive Councils to attain the 2014 clean audit outcomes.

Mr Makama mentioned that APAC greatly appreciated its strategic and fruitful relationship with institutions such as AGSA. He described the working relationship between AGSA as one "which has continued to add value to the work of APAC and oversight structures in general". He added that APAC was in the process of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Service Commission.

He concluded by calling upon all delegates to



Hon. S. Makama
General Secretary - APAC

make a concerted effort to conduct oversight over the Development Account on royalties collected on mining houses "which is supposed to be utilised for service delivery in the various mining communities and other communities in general".

AUDITOR GENERAL FAREWELL

The Association of Public Accounts Committee (APAC) bid farewell to the Auditor-General, Mr. Terence Nombembe during the cocktail function held in Port Elizabeth last night. The cocktail function was hosted by the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature. Mr. Nombembe assumed AG's office in June 2000 as the Deputy Auditor-General and Chief Executive Officer. In December 2006 he was appointed to the position of Auditor-General of the Republic of South Africa. He was the first African to hold the position of Auditor-General in the organisation's 100-year history.

Speaker after speaker praised Mr Nombembe for having led the Office of the Auditor General with distinction and critical acclaim for the past 7 years. During his tenure the Office of the Auditor-General distinguished itself as one of the cornerstones of democracy, impartiality, independence and professionalism in the South African public sector space. Hon J.T Beukes, the Acting Chairperson of APAC, paid tribute to the contributions made by Mr. Nombembe. She said "the strategic relationship between APAC, Mr. Nombembe and the Auditor General's Office goes back a long way to the period of his predecessor".

The AG has managed to foster the relationship between APAC and the AG's office because in 19 February 2009, the APAC office bearers had a meeting with Mr. Nombembe wherein the AG gave a refreshed commitment regarding the good intentions to continue the strategic partnership with APAC. "Mr. Nombembe reiterated his commitment to providing the Secretariat of APAC as well as availing of subject matter expertise from AGSA in order to assist APAC in anyway required", said Hon Beukes. Both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the 27 February 2013 which approved the addition of a Senior Manager position on the APAC Secretariat which initially was not part of the structure.

A very proud Hon Beukes remarked; "Today we have six support staff for APAC and five those staff salaries are paid for by the AGSA". Hon Beukes shared some of the victories that APAC has secured as a result of partnering with Mr. Nombembe and Office of the AG.

- A roll out of New Member Orientation Programme in 2009 for all the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) members including a successful implementation of capacity building programmes for PAC members, Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), PAC and MPAC Support Staff.
- In 2012, APAC successfully hosted an International conference - Southern African Development Community of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) in Mpumalanga.
- A successful implementation of the APAC



Mr and Mrs Terence Nombembe

"The organisation of the oversight structure needs to be as efficient as possible so that we can make our work to be more effective. There is a need to have a strong Secretariat that understands what needs to be done"

conferences from 2009 till the current ongoing one which being hosted by the Eastern Cape in 2013.

- AGSA subject matter experts presented training topics at all APAC capacity building interventions.
- Quarterly engagements between AG and APAC where he has shared insight with APAC leadership and membership looking jointly at mechanisms that would assist in securing Clean Audit Outcomes and ultimately clean administration for the year 2014 and beyond.

The Chairperson of AFROPAC, Hon K Maweu from Kenya praised Mr Nombembe for the

contribution he made to SCOPA members of Kenya. "The Auditor-General of Kenya has done its best to capacitate and train SCOPA members" he said, taking a page from Mr. Nombembe's exemplary playbook. He further urged Government who have not followed suit, to allocate adequate budgets to their respective Auditor-General's offices so that the electorate can be better served.

The Hon Deputy Speaker of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, Hon. B. Tunyiswa gave a context as to why the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature felt it necessary to host the farewell function of Mr. Nombembe.

"We would like to thank the Executive of APAC for giving Mr. Nombembe such a farewell because he deserves it; he has demonstrated his commitment, his passion and patriotism; especially his love for his Eastern Cape province. He has demonstrated that he is a son of the soil."

"The AG has been an educator that guides with a very sober and clear mind and we feel humbled to have worked with him", said Hon Tunyiswa.

She further said that one of the most revering aspects about Mr. Nombembe's character was that he was not shy to expose the Eastern Cape Legislature's weaknesses, not to embarrass but to encourage the Legislature not to rest on its laurels when it achieves a good report. Hon Tunyiswa said that in order to show

commitment to AG's warnings, the Legislature responded by allocating more time, resources and space for SCOPA.

"Your time as AG has brought many good changes to Public Sector accountability and oversight," she concluded.

Expressing gratitude to the people who attended and organized the event, Mr. Nombembe, acknowledged the honour bestowed upon him by the stakeholders. He said the fact that a wide range of stakeholders gathered to honour him, bears testimony to the works of AGSA. He remarked that the organisers of the Conference were very creative in hosting this farewell for him whilst the month of October has been designated for his swansong to all the Legislatures.

Mr. Nombembe said the farewell tour to Legislature will now be used as a moment of reflection on what has happened in the public sector audit space unlike previous engagements

with Legislature that focus on serious issues of governance. "The tour will also be used to prepare for the 5th Parliament as recurring problems will be addressed," he said.

Mr. Nombembe had a very simple goodbye message. The reflection focused on what currently works and what does not work.

"The organisation of the oversight structure needs to be as efficient as possible so that we can make our work to be more effective. There is a need to have a strong Secretariat that understands what needs to be done," he advised.

"The importance of the Secretariat cannot be overstated because a weak Secretariat will result in the failure of the structures, so please do not cut corners in this regard," he warned.

From an auditing perspective, he advised that there is a need to emulate the Latin American experience in auditing which is informed by

citizen participation in the auditing process.

He urged the Auditors in general not to interpret independence as being distant from stakeholders but to render a professional impartial service.

The AG thanked his immediate family and his extended family at large for their support and the role they have played.

"The role of Chapter 9 institutions is not to be advocates of communities but to empower citizens to stand up for their rights," he said.

Mr. Nombembe concluded that he is leaving the Office of the Auditor General having fulfilled his mission for the office; "To be recognised by all our stakeholders as a relevant Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) that enhances public sector accountability".

Exciting programme lies ahead

The content of the programme for the 14th Annual Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) Conference stands firmly behind the national drive to promote good governance and financial accountability of State resources.

The conference which runs from 30 September until 3 October will take place at the International Convention Centre in Port Elizabeth. Approximately 500 delegates representing local, provincial and national spheres of government in South Africa as well as foreign representatives from Australia, Namibia, Botswana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be at the conference.

Underpinned by the main theme 'Strengthening oversight processes to achieve clean administration by 2014 and beyond', the conference will focus on delegates engaging on fresh ideas of enhancing oversight and accountability.

The conference will conclude with a declaration being passed by delegates that will pave the way forward for APAC's oversight responsibility.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism, has organised tours for delegates which will take place on Tuesday, 1 October.



The Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature's choir welcoming guests to the cocktail function

There are two options for the tours; either to go on city and township tour or an ocean cruise. Delegates will be issued with a Nelson Mandela Bay pass (a smartcard) which enables delegates to gain free admission to a variety of attractions and activities in Nelson Mandela Bay area. The smart card is only valid for the day of the excursion.

Option 1: Combined City and Township Tour: This tour will include a visit to the South End Museum, Donkin Reserve, Korsten area and the Red Location Museum which will bring a deeper awareness of the political struggle that people faced in the Port Elizabeth area.

Option 2: Jester Ocean Cruise: Only 120 delegates will be accommodated on the Jester cruise and therefore preference will be given to delegates from outside the Eastern Cape

Province. The Jester cruise is done on a catamaran with a double deck to accommodate 180 people for casual cruising, and 110 seated for more formal functions.

Delegates who do not wish to go on the organized tours can explore some of the other attractions and activities on offer in Nelson Mandela Bay during the time allocated for the tours. Delegates who choose this option will still be provided with the Nelson Mandela Bay pass, but will not be provided with transport nor any other logistical assistance.

APAC in photos



(left to right) Deputy Speaker, Hon B Tunyiswa, Chairperson of Committees, Hon S Mtsi, Public Protector, Adv T Madonsela, Secretary to the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, Mr. P Ndamase



Public Protector, Adv T Madonsela, APAC Exco member, Hon. H Chauke, Adv. Mpati Phapuli



Front (L-R) Mr Simon Magolego – GPL Support Staff, Michael Seoane – Gauteng Public Service Commissioner Mr Terence Nombembe – AG of South Africa



Ms Thea Weideman – AGSA FS Business Unit, Mr Danny Weideman- AGSA FS Business Unit, Stephen Paine (behind) – AGSA KZN Business Unit, Ms Zelna Grobler AGSA NW Business Unit



Deputy Chief Whip, Hon M Peter (top left), Chairperson of Chairpersons, Hon S Mtsi Auditor General, Mr. T Nombembe, Deputy Speaker, Hon B Tunyiswa, Hon T Xanti (bottom left), Hon P Mpushe (center), Hon N Petela-Ngcanga (bottom right)

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